

Cindy Cook is a mother of five and has raised her family in the MOT area for the last 20 years and the last 12 of those in Townsend. She cites her experience in community service as a volunteer with the Girl Scouts, in her church, as well as her kids' sports programs as an asset that translates to serving the town as a councilwoman. She cites her experience of crafting the town's Social Media policy, managing the town's Facebook page, engaging the town in National Autism Awareness Month, and helping organize various town events as a part of her service to the town. Her goal on council is to maintain the small town charm with minimal growth, which is why she moved here, and to unite the new town with old town to make for a better town. She wants to look past current needs and to consider what the town needs 10 to 15 years from now. She also wants more transparency and prides herself on her ability to ask tough questions. She said that after 4 years on the council, she is starting to get the feel of the job.

Cook voted for the town's renter's ordinance that passed in April largely because she says not having such an ordinance creates a liability risk for the town. She cited the town of Cheswald getting sued after a 2017 fire where a building did not have working smoke detectors.

Cook has been vocal about the town's streetlight fees and at past council meetings spoke against the process of implementing a fee that she understood to be paid by all residents, to have that fee waived for residents in the newer developments where the lights are paid for by the developers. She supported the idea of having the town obtaining ownership of the lights in the new developments.

Cook voted against the April ordinance that allowed for a higher density development at the Carter Farm saying that she doesn't want to see high density residential growth in the town. She also wanted more time to discuss and research the rezoning feeling that the presentation was done last moment and there wasn't enough due diligence to make the vote. She does like that traffic will be directed in and out via Rt. 71 and will not flow through town.

Cook cited crime and vandalism problems around town, especially in the parks as a big problem and feels that public safety is the chief function of government. One thing she has and will continue to push for is a town police force. She believes the security of having a local police force will be worth the money the town would need to invest and wouldn't be that much more than what the town is paying to the State Police for law enforcement.

Photo credit: Keith Thompson